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963. *A Mule Bird*. By W. E. D. Scott. *Ibid.*, Jan. 15, p. 484.—A cross between *Colaptes mexicanus* and *C. chrysoides*. (Originally published in the 'Arizona Daily Star,' Tucson, Dec. 16, 1884.)—J. A. A.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

**Abnormal Coloration in a Caged Robin.**—In an account of an abnormally colored Robin given in 'The Auk' for January, 1884, p. 90, mention was made of the softness of the bones. Such of these as were not necessary to the proper make-up of the skin were submitted to a careful chemical analysis under the direction of Prof. W. O. Atwater, of Wesleyan University, who found them to contain only about 25 per cent of mineral matter, or about one-third the amount usually found in the bones of normal, healthy birds.—W. B. BARROWS, *Middletown, Conn.*

**Another Black Robin.**—Some time ago I heard of a second 'Black Robin,' and tried to find out the facts with regard to it, but failed to get anything definite until to-day, when, by mere chance, I met the owner of the abnormal bird and obtained from him the following facts about it. The bird was taken from the nest here in Middletown while in the ordinary first plumage, and for "two or three years" was like any other caged Robin. The owner, Mr. H. S. Leonard, seemed principally struck with the tremendous appetite of the bird, which he assured me ate "as much as a goose" every day. Gradually the plumage became somewhat variegated with black and white, the black predominating above, though Mr. Leonard thinks the bird became ultimately almost white.

There was no return to the normal plumage after the abnormal dress was once assumed; but the bird, which proved to be a female, always seemed in perfect health and laid several sets of eggs while in captivity, of course hatching none. She, however, adopted any young bird, of whatever species, put into her cage, and in every case reared the young birds successfully. She died when about five years old, through the carelessness of the person left to feed her. Unfortunately her skin was not preserved. The food was varied as much as possible, consisting largely of insects, worms, fruit, etc., in summer, with a large proportion of meat, bread, etc., in winter.—W. B. BARROWS, *Middletown, Conn.*